

Welcome New State Deafblind Project Personnel

Welcome to the Deafblind Technical Assistance Network! We'd like to introduce you to the National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB) and the many services we provide to state deafblind projects. As you settle into your new role, we invite you to become familiar with the ways we are working to support you.

WELCOME TO NCDB

To learn about NCDB and the services we provide, check out the <u>About Us</u> section of our website and take a quick <u>website tour</u>.

HOW NCDB CONNECTS WITH YOU

As someone new to a state deafblind project, your inbox will likely be full, so we promise not to add any clutter! In fact, we try hard to focus and streamline our messaging. Learn about the types of information we send and how you'll receive it in the NCDB and State Deafblind Project Messaging factsheet.

STATE DEAFBLIND PROJECT WEBPAGES

You'll want to review all the information in the <u>For State Deafblind Projects</u> section of our website. The <u>NCDB Support for State Deafblind Projects</u> page describes the specific services we provide. We also publish a <u>Monthly Update</u> with summaries of important announcements such as upcoming webinars, new resources and publications, and news from OSEP. To get connected with other state projects, visit (and bookmark) our <u>state deafblind project directory page</u>.

INFORMATION ON DEAFBLINDNESS

Our <u>Deafblindness Overview</u> page is an excellent reference to share with anyone who is unfamiliar with deafblindness or who's never worked with or known a child who is deafblind. It describes deafblindness and its causes as well as the wide diversity of the deafblind population. To find more detailed information on a range of topics on educating children who are deafblind, visit <u>Info Topics</u>. And, in our <u>For Families section</u>, you can meet a number of children who are deafblind and hear their family stories.

NCDB'S FOUR INITIATIVES

Most of NCDB's work focuses on four <u>national initiatives</u> designed to address key needs of children with deafblindness, their families, and their service providers. These four initiatives are Identification and Referral, Family Engagement, Interveners and Qualified Personnel, and Transition.

THE APR AND COMMON MEASURES

All state deafblind projects submit an annual performance report (APR) to OSEP in the spring. The section on "Evaluation and Performance Reporting" on the <u>Project Management page</u> provides basic information about the APR and other forms of evaluation.

The Common Project Measures for the Deafblind TA Network are an important part of the APR. They address key elements of state deafblind project work. For details, see the <u>Common Project Measures 2023-2028 folder</u> in the <u>private Basecamp group</u> for state projects (you must be logged into Basecamp to access these resources).

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND CHILD COUNT

Several NCDB webpages support specific project activities. For example, the <u>Project Management</u> page provides information on budgeting, evaluation, dissemination, and planning. And, if you are involved in the annual child count, you'll want to become familiar with the <u>Child Count Management</u> page.

The NCDB staff is excited to work and connect with you. Please don't hesitate to reach out!

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